COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY	')
) CASE NO. 98-592
ALLEGED FAILURE PURSUANT TO))
807 KAR 5:041, SECTION 3, TO COMPLY WITH NATIONAL ELECTRIC SAFETY CODE))
("NESC"), 1990 EDITION, SECTION 23, CLEARANCES, RULE 234 B. 1&2)

ORDER

Louisville Gas and Electric Company ("LG&E") is a Kentucky corporation which engages in the distribution of gas and electricity to the public for compensation for lights, heat, power, and other uses, and is a utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. KRS 278.010(3)(a).

KRS 278.280(2) directs that the Commission is to prescribe rules and regulations for the performance of services by utilities. Pursuant to this statutory directive, the Commission promulgated Administrative Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, which requires electric utilities to maintain their plant and facilities in accordance with the standards of the National Electric Safety Code ("NESC").

Commission Staff submitted to the Commission a Utility Accident Investigation Report dated August 20, 1998, attached hereto, which alleges that:

1. On May 31, 1998, between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., Mitchell Metzinger and Thomas Mattingly, electrical maintenance employees of the city of Louisville, were using a bucket truck to install a counting device to a steel pole serving as a traffic light

pole located at the northeast corner of Preston Highway and Gilmore Lane in Louisville, Kentucky. There were various lines, wires and cables passing at and near the top of the steel traffic pole.

- 2. Metzinger had maneuvered the bucket to the top of the steel pole structure and was attempting to drop a nylon string down into the hollow steel structure when he contacted an energized conductor. He was wearing no safety equipment other than a hard hat and he sustained second and third degree burns to his left hand and lesser burns to his right arm. Mattingly was near the bucket truck, did not see the accident, and was unable to maneuver the bucket down from various wires. The fire department was summoned to extricate Metzinger.
- 3. Commission Staff examined the accident scene and, specifically, measured the line clearances at the point of the accident. It was determined by measurement that the C-Phase conductor carrying 7.2 KV was 2 feet 2 inches from the steel pole structure. NESC, Section 23, Rule 234B, 1&2, set a minimum clearance from phase conductor to structure of 4 feet 6 inches. NESC standards are applicable to LG&E pursuant to 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3.

The Commission, based upon the facts contained in the Utility Accident Investigation Report, finds sufficient evidence to believe that LG&E has failed to comply with 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3, and NESC, Section 23, Rule 234B, 1&2.

The Commission, on its own motion, HEREBY ORDERS that:

LG&E shall submit to the Commission within 20 days of the date of this
 Order a written response to the allegations contained in the Utility Accident Investigation
 Report.

2. LG&E shall appear on the 7th day of January, 1999 at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Hearing Room 1 of the Commission's offices at 730 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky for the purposes of presenting evidence regarding the alleged violation of Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:041, Section 3 and NESC, Section 23, Rule 234B, 1&2, and of showing cause, if any, why it should not be subject to the penalties prescribed in KRS 278.990(1) for the alleged violation.

3. The Utility Accident Investigation Report dated August 20, 1998 is hereby made a part of the record herein.

4. Any request for an informal conference with Commission Staff to consider any matter which would expedite the handling or disposition of this proceeding shall be filed with the Commission no later than 20 days from the date of this Order.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 20th day of November, 1998.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Executive Director

APPENDIX

AN APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 98-592 DATED NOVEMBER 20, 1998.

UTILITY ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

Utility:	Louisville Gas and Electric Company				
Reported By:	Larry Miller				
Dates & Times					
Accident Occurred:	05/31/98 – Between 1:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m.				
Utility Notified:	05/31/98 – 2:15 p.m.				
PSC Notified:	05/31/98 – 3:08 p.m.				
Investigated:	06/01/98				
Written Report Rcvd:	06/05/98				
Location of Accident:	North east corner of Preston Highway and Gilmore Lane				
Description of Accident:	Mr. Mitchell Metzinger and Mr. The Electrical Maintenance employees, we voltage feeder circuit to place a traff Metzinger was up in the bucket at the trying to feed a nylon string with a weight. Mattingly was over by the bucket out to him, "Get me down from here down, but was not able to because of Department and LG&E to get there to process of trying to feed the string do pole structure that Mr. Metzinger receivercuit. Mr. Mattingly said they knew that was not wearing any protective equiple hard hat, at the time of the accident. It to wear a hard hat. The bucket tructive signs as to the hazards of wears.	ere in the place in the place top of the ght on the truck where." Mr. Make a get him to get him to get him to get him to get him the wires where wires where they we keep we get him they are get him th	orocess of r. Mr. Ma traffic light end of it ten he heattingly trives. He hadown. It is gh the insock from an were ener or was Mr. gly said the re using v	trying to intend to the attingly sand the steel police of the additional to the steel police of the noverhead gized. Mr. Mattingly were or was well means to the steel police of the steel	id that Mr. le structure new circuit. tzinger call the bucket for the Fire that in the traffic light denergized. Metzinger y, except a nly required
Victims:		.	<u> </u>	Τ.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Name:	Mitchell Metzinger	Fatal:	No	Age:	Unknown
Addr./Empl.:	City of Louisville, Kentucky – employ	ee			

August 20, 1998

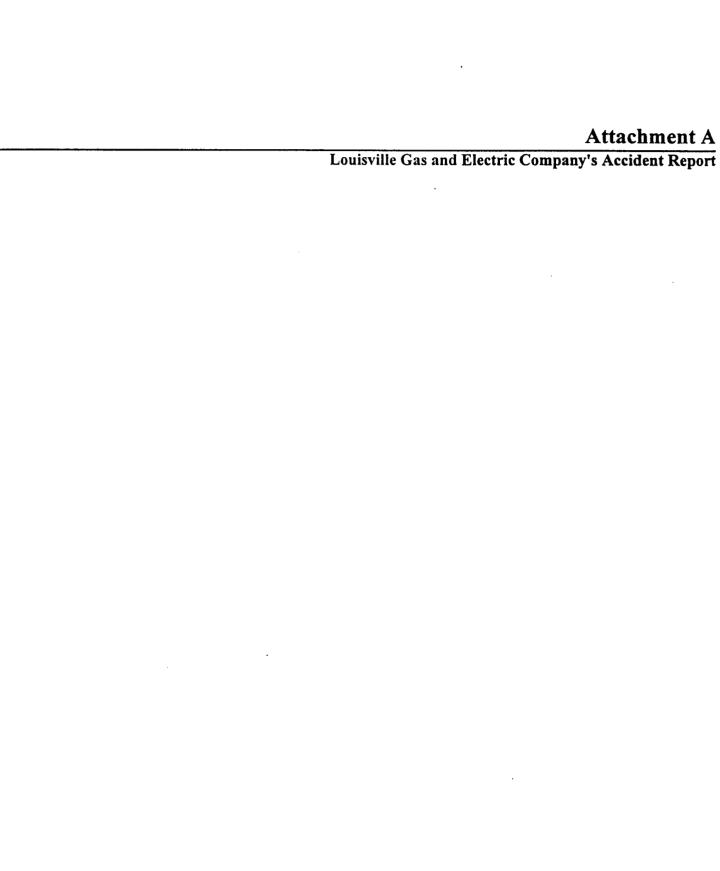
August 20, 1998		******			
Injuries:	Burn on left hand	and arm			
Witnesses:	Name		Address/Employment		
	Thomas Mattingly		City of Louisville employee		
	Name		Address/Employme	ent	
	Thomas Mattingly City of Louisville employee				
	Larry Miller		Louisville Gas & Electric employee		
	R.W. Hasch		Louisville Gas & E		<u> </u>
	James Holdermar)	Louisville Gas & E		
	David Geoghegar		Louisville Gas & E		<u> </u>
Sources of	Gary Dezarn		Louisville Gas & E		
Information:	John Land on site	investigator	PSC Engineering		p.0300
Probable Violations:			C) 1990 Edition, Sec		learances.
Line Clearances At Point of Accident:	Measured	Minimum Allowed by NESC	Applicable NESC Edition ¹ 1990	Volt.	Constr. Date
Phase Conductor to Ground Elevation:	AØ - 34' – 8" BØ - 33' – 4" CØ - 32' – 8"	18' – 6" 18' – 6" 18' – 6"	Table 232-1	7.2 KV	Unknown
Neutral Conductor to Ground Elevation: Span Guy to	P/N - 24' - 6"	15' – 6"	Table 232-1	N/A	Unknown
Ground Elevation:	S/G – 26' – 0"	15' – 6"	Table 232-1	N/A	Unknown
Phase Conductor to Structure:	AØ - 7' 9" BØ - 5' 0" CØ - 2' 2"	4' - 6" 4' - 6" 4' - 6"	Section 23, Rule 234 B. 1&2	7.2 KV	Unknown
Date of Measurement:	06/01/98				
Approximate Temp.:	90°F				
Measurements Made	Gary Dezarn, Jan	nes Holderman, Da	avid Geoghegan, R.\	W. Hasch,	Larry

Current edition adopted by the Commission. If clearances are not in compliance with the current edition, then the edition in effect when the facilities were last constructed or modified would apply.

August 20, 1998

Investigated By: John W. Land	
Signed: Johnw Land	

Attachments A. Louisville Gas & Electric Company's Accident Report B. Photographs of Accident Site



Accident Investigation Report Louisville Gas & Electric Company Mr. Mitchell Metzinger



June 5, 1998

Louisville Gas and Electric Company 220 West Main Street P.O. Box 32010 Louisville, Kentucky 40232

Ms. Martha Morton Kentucky Public Service Commission 730 Schenkel Lane P. O. Box 615 Frankfort, KY 40602

RE:

Incident at Preston Highway and Gilmore Lane City of Louisville Employee, Mitchell Metzinger RECEIVED

JUN 08 1998

DIVISION OF UTILITY ENGINEERING & SERVICES

Dear Ms. Morton:

Attached is an "Investigation Report" on the above incident. This is filed in compliance with the seven-day reporting requirement.

Additional information including pictures and drawings will be provided as soon as they are available.

If you need additional information concerning this report, please let me know. I can be reached at (502) 627-4883.

Very truly yours,

Gregory B. Fergason

Regulatory Affairs Coordinator

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Attachment



Louisville Gas and Electric Company 220 West Main Street P.O. Box 32010 Louisville, Kentucky 40232

INVESTIGATION REPORT

ELECTRICAL CONTACT

Type of Report

98-E-009

Report Number

A L Miller

Investigator

May 31, 1998

Date of Incident

Reference: Mitchell Metzinger Received an Electrical Shock.

Location:

Preston Highway and Gilmore Lane

Louisville, KY 40213

Case Summary:

On May 31, 1998, at approximately 14:15 hours, I received a call from Electric Service Delivery Department about a City of Louisville Employee getting shocked at Preston Highway and Gilmore Lane.

At 14:46 hours, I arrived on the scene and met with LG&E's employees, Dale Bruce, Trouble Supervisor, Gary Dezarn, Line Technician, and Jeff Rausch, Manager of Risk Management Department arrived a little later. Mr. Thomas Mattingly, City of Louisville Employee was also met with at the scene.

Mr. Mattingly stated Mr. Mitchell Metzinger also a City of Louisville Employee received an electrical shock and had been transported to the University Hospital by the EMS.

Mr. Mattingly stated they were there to install equipment to count the traffic.

Mr. Mattingly stated Mr. Metzinger was up in the bucket of the bucket truck when he received the shock. Mr. Mattingly also stated, Mr. Metzinger had removed the cap off the top of the steel pole and had drop a nylon twine with a bolt tied to the end down inside the pole. He was attempting to get the twine down through a bird nest that was inside the pole at the time he received the shock.

Investigation Report Page 2

Mr. Mattingly said he did not see Mr. Metzinger get shocked but hear him holler "get me down from here."

Mr. Mattingly said he could not get the bucket down through the lines and waited for the fire department and LG&E to get there to get Mr. Metzinger down. Mr. Metzinger had placed the bucket up between the various cables. The steel pole, with the service drop, traffic control wires and the telephone line on the west side of the bucket and the neutral conductor and span guy on the east side of the bucket.

Mr. Mattingly was asked by someone if they knew the lines were energized and he answered they did. Mr. Mattingly was asked if Mr. Metzinger was wearing protective equipment and he stated he was not wearing gloves and he only had a short sleeve shirt on.

Mr. Mattingly was asked if Mr. Metzinger was consious all the time and Mr. Mattingly stated he was. He also stated Mr. Metzinger said he did not know what happened.

Photographs were taken at the scene.

Mr. John Land with the Public Service Commission was notified by telephone at 15:08 hours. A message was left on his answering machine and he called back and set up appointment for Monday June 1, 1998, at 9:30 hours to meet at the scene.

It was reported Mr. Metzinger was left handed and he received second and third degree burns to the palm of the left hand. It was also reported the hair was burned off the right arm and it was red all over. Mr. Metzinger was released from the hospital on Monday June 1,1998.



June 26, 1998

Louisville Gas and Electric Company 220 West Main Street P.O. Box 32010 Louisville, Kentucky 40232

Ms. Martha Morton
Kentucky Public Service Commission
730 Schenkel Lane
P. O. Box 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

RE: Electric Shock Incident, Preston Highway and Gilmore Lane, Louisville, KY 40207

Dear Ms. Morton:

Attached is additional information regarding the above incident that was requested by your office.

If you need additional information concerning this report, please let me know. I can be reached at (502) 627-4883.

Very truly yours, Dieg Feigen

Gregory B. Fergason

Regulatory Affairs Coordinator

Attachment



Louisville Gas and Electric Company 220 West Main Street P.O. Box 32010 Louisville, Kentucky 40232

INVESTIGATION REPORT

ELECTRICAL CONTACT

Type of Report

98-E-009

Report Number

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Investigator

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EDGEWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DIST.

1127 Orchard Ave. Louisville, Kentucky 40213 Station: (502)-964-6011 Fax: (502)-969-1382

Fax Cover Sheet

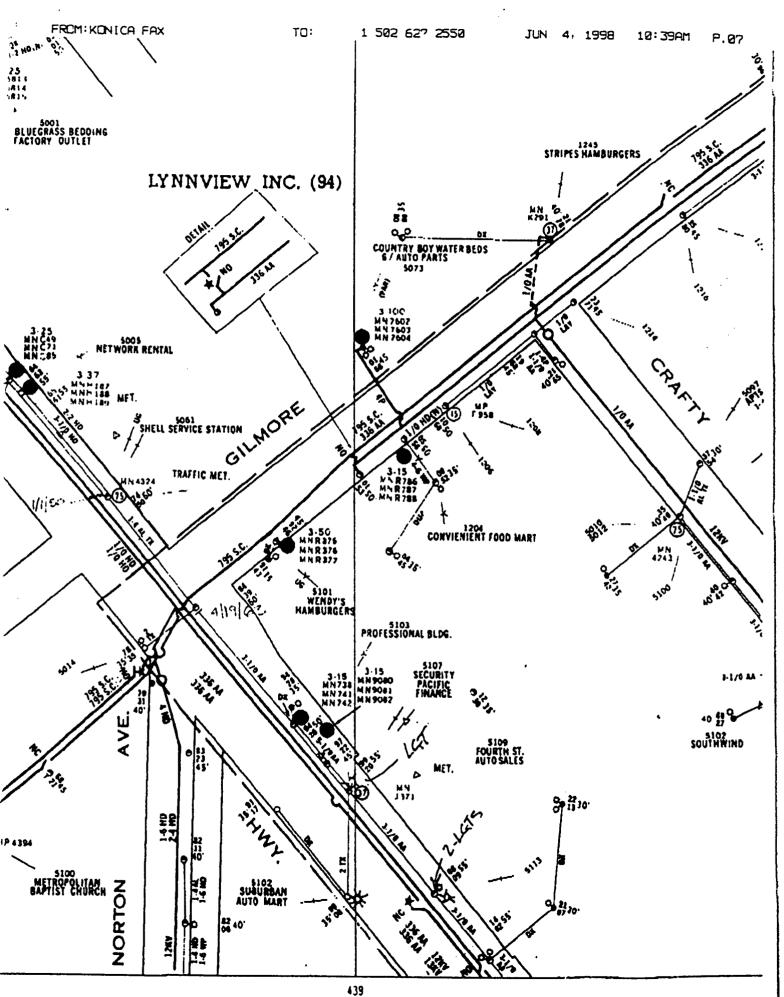
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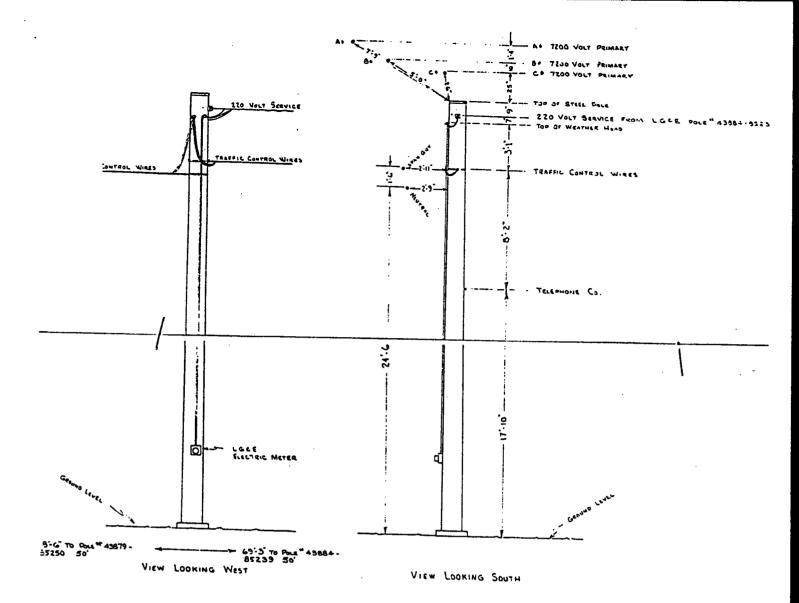
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